The Marker Lamp

Volume 56 Number 4 Fall 2010

One of the great layouts you will see in Lubbock 2011

60th Anniversary LSR Convention

Lubbock, Texas June 9-12, 2011

Mark you calendar to attend

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The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of The
National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 56, Number 4

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region** of **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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Submission Deadlines &
Advertising Closing Dates

Winter Issue.....January 15
Spring Issue .....April 15
Summer Issue.....July 15
Fall Issue.....October 15

Mailing Date:
Approx. 30 Days After Deadline.
Materials received after the deadline will be held for the next issue unless the author requests otherwise.

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

VARIETY….. is one of the primary reasons why railroading is such a popular and important part of our lives.

Very few hobbies need the wide variety of skills that model railroading does. When we start building a layout, we quickly realize we need to know a little bit about scale drawing, carpentry, electricity, tracklaying, scenery, electronics, and operations. This variety of activities keeps our interests (and frustrations) aroused.

From a historical prospective, a wide variety of events can determine why a city grows. The **most** pivotal events in the development of Dallas, according to a group of historians, were the coming of the north-south Houston & Texas Central Railway in 1872 and the east-west Texas & Pacific Railway in 1873 to the Dallas area. The article in *The Dallas Morning News* on October 3, 2010 stated: "The railroads rapidly turned the city into a boomtown…Nothing else in the city's history had such an impact." Without a doubt, when the railroads came to any town, everything changed dramatically.

Aside from the important roles that the big railroads have played in the development of our country, as modelers we tend to think of railroads from a variety of different perspectives. Many of us create model railroads in a variety of scales, floor space, and relevancy to prototype railroads. As it should be, just about anything goes because "it's *my* railroad".

The variety of interests in railroading is so much broader than just from the modeling standpoint. Some years ago I was a member of a model railroad club in Dallas where one of the most active members was more interested in full-size railroads than in the club's layout. He and his wife spent their vacations traveling around the world riding anything on rails. With his extensive collection of movies, photos, documents, and actual experiences about the real railroads, he significantly helped the other club members in developing varieties of track plans, scenery, and operations that they probably would have never thought of otherwise. Thus, his variety of railroading experiences really benifitted the club members.

Many of you may know people whose interests may be quite different from yours but could be a treasure trove of ideas. The LSR membership is steadily growing thanks to the intensive efforts of many of you. By reaching out to others with their unique varieties of interests, we have excellent opportunities to expand our organization even more.

If you were not at the San Antonio LSR convention this past June, you missed out on the imaginative presentation by Dave Lamberts and Liz Jones about the 2011 Lubbock convention. Additional information about it is in this *The Marker Lamp*. Get together the entire family and head to Lubbock next June. Everyone will have a great time enjoying the wide variety of railroad activities.

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

Sure glad I retired, don't know how I would get everything done if I was still working. Seems like I am busier than ever since I left my office at the University. The first week off I took my annual trip to the Narrow Gauge Convention. This year we went back to the city that started it all to celebrate our 30th year of having these great conventions, but first a little leading up to the convention. Several of us from the LSR headed out in a couple of cars headed to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, not exactly the direct route to St. Louis. Why Mt. Pleasant? Because the West Side Lumber Shay #9 is there and I was promised a ride. Well we arrived and found ourselves in the mist of one of the biggest steam ups I have ever attended. Labor day weekend they steam up anything with a boiler. There must have been at least 100 steam powered tractors from the very small to one Case tractor with wheels over 7' tall and 4' wide with the words 110 horsepower proudly marked on the side of the tractor. Plus all of these, they had what must have been hundreds of all types of tractors from the very early kerosene powered to some of today's modern tractors, as well as all types of farm equipment. It was truly a history lesson as we walked around the fairgrounds. There were many antique cars and trucks and we were told there would be several hundred by time the week was over. Well they had steam dome problems with the shay and the volunteers felt terrible about it and worked most of the night trying to repair the problem so we had to settle for a cab ride in the shay but pulled by a diesel around the loop. It was still a cab ride and I was riding in the engineers seat, one of our fellow LSR members remarked he didn't know I had some many teeth! If you ever get the chance the steam up in Mt. Pleasant is well worth the trip.

From there we made our way to St. Louis visiting some of the Narrow Gauge layouts in other parts of the state as we travelled. The Narrow Gauge convention is 3 ½ days of nothing but layouts, clinics, and the vendor room with everything you could ever think about, and then some. A group from Florida brought one of the best portable layouts I have ever seen done in 120.3. It took two trucks to haul it to the convention and close to 30 hours to set it up. Words cannot describe it, all you can do is watch in amazement.

When it was winding down and going over future convention sites at the final night meeting, some of the Houston folks decided to make a bid for the convention in 2015. Yes we may be crazy but we felt Houston has some of the best layouts in the country and we want to show them off to the rest of the world.

We have 5 years to get ready and I am sure some of the LSR members will be asked to help as we move forward with planning for the convention.

As I said I am sure glad I retired, looks like the next 5 years are going to be busy ones.

HOT SUMMER RAILROAD FUN IN WEST TEXAS

David Lamberts, Chairman, 2011 Convention

I want to personally invite you to the Caprock Express Lone Star Region railroad convention in Lubbock. The dates are Thursday, June 9 thru Sunday, June 12, 2011. When last held in Lubbock in 2003, we used the Holiday Inn Plaza on the south loop as our convention hotel. This worked out very well and we will be back at the same venue for 2011.

A few words about Lubbock. Contrary to what you may have heard, there are NO dust storms in Lubbock in June. Actually the weather is quite pleasant in the summer - hot but dry. Driving in Lubbock is a dream. If you can count from four to 114 and know your alphabet from A to Z you are in good shape. We are essentially traffic jam free. Just down from the hotel are the Science Spectrum Museum and the Omnimax theater. They are within walking distance from the hotel.

Liz Jones is in charge of the non-rail program and it promises to be particularly robust in 2011. She is potentially planning classes in beading, blanket making, scrap booking, tours of the local wineries, and probably a tour of the wind mill museum including a look at those amazing wind turbines that are so prevalent in west Texas.

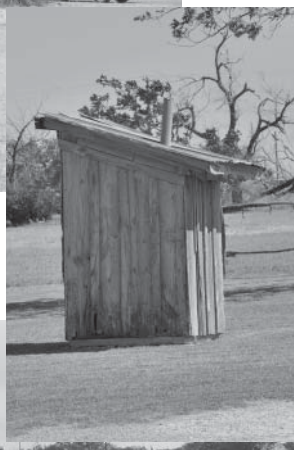
Bob Mamlok has purchased a building in Slaton, Texas and is building a huge layout representing west Texas railroads. He even has a real Centralized Train Control machine which is fascinating in its own right. Bob will be providing free bus service to Slaton to see the layout. Bob Batson's fabulous and famous N-scale layout is also housed in Bob's building. Across the street from Bob's place is an AT&SF steamer (#1809). It is a 2-6-2 and used to run out of Slaton. And if that isn't enough I am making plans with one of the professors from the Texas Tech Department of Art to put on an art exhibit from the department archives depicting railroading in Texas from "the old days." The exhibit will be across the Slaton city square and an easy walk from Bob's layout. We will also have two narrow gauge layouts on tour - up from my own in 2003 and a ginormous outdoor garden layout owned and operated by Allan Hagins.

Ron Warner is in charge of prototype tours and is arranging a tour of BNSF's west Lubbock switching yard. He is also negotiating with Xcel Energy's coal-fired generating plant which hopefully will include a BNSF unit-coal train unloading. The Harvey House in Slaton has recently been completely refurbished and will be open for tours during the convention. Ron is also planning on printing an 18-month calendar with old pictures of the BNSF as full color pages to be sold at the convention.

Bob Roth of the Amarillo Railroad Museum is probably going to have their building open for the convention. It is a huge (and I mean huge) HO layout in a building the club built themselves. It is worth the trip just to see how they built the building!

Of course the usual fare of clinics, raffles, auctions, good food, and comradery will be served as expected. So - ya'all come see us in 2011. I promise a great time.

The food will be fresh!



Ranching History

Old Fashion wind power

Great Layouts

Everyone has a Great Time in Lubbock!

Photo Contest Rules

Lone Star Region Of the National Model Railroad Association
As Passed by the LSR Board of Directors

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except Professional Photographers. A Professional Photographer is any member who derives the majority (51% or more) of his or her income from photography.

2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR Entry Description Sheet. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated with a valid NMRA membership number.

3. The entrant may submit up to ten (10) entries with a maximum of five (5) entries in one category. No entry fee shall be charged.

4. Prints must be mounted on flat, rigid board or matted with similar material. No folders or frames or glass allowed. Photo and mount may not exceed 13"x16" in size. Minimum mount size is 8" x 10" and minimum print size is 5" x 7".

5. Photos will be displayed to permit maximum inspection based on space available.

6. Photos that have won First (1st) place at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.

7. Prints must have the entrant's name on the back of the mount. The title of the photo may be on the front, but no photo will be accepted with the entrant's name on the front.

8. Exposure of the original and any adjustment or modification of the image by Photoshop or any other means must have been made by the entrant.

9. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the photo after the contest.

10. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Contest Committee, the LSR Contest Chairman and the Judges.

11. Neither the Lone Star Region nor the Host Convention Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a Photo beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then no more than the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.

12. Judges for the photo contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chair, with the help of the Host Convention Chairman if necessary.

13. The proposed contest schedule, including entry and cutoff times, judging and viewing times, will be determined by the Host Convention Committee working in conjunction with the Region Contest Chairman. This schedule will be published on the Convention Website, the Convention Timetable, the *Marker Lamp*, and posted in the Contest Room. Any changes to this schedule will be published on the Convention Website, the Convention Timetable, The Marker Lamp, and/or posted in the Contest Room.

14. The contest room will remain closed to viewing during judging. The room will be open for viewing during normal convention hours except when closed for judging, unless otherwise posted.

15. For the protection of the entries, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the model display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

B. Categories

1. Model – Black and White Print
2. Model – Color Print
3. Prototype – Black and White Print
4. Prototype – Color Print
5. Computer Enhanced Print

C. Judging Procedures

The following judging system has been successfully used in competitive camera club settings for many years.

1. View all the entries in a category one at a time to get an overview of the field. There should be no commentary between the judges at this point.

2. The entries should be viewed again and each judge should indicate if the entry should stay or be eliminated. During this run-through, a positive vote by any one judge will keep the entry in the running. Entries receiving no votes are set aside.

3. If a third (3rd) run-through is needed, two (2) positive responses are required to keep an entry. If the field is still very large, perform a fourth (4th) run-through. The purpose of this process is to narrow the field rather than to pick the winner.

4. The judges should now have a reasonably small field to work with. At this stage considerable discussion among the judges is needed and encouraged as they compare the entries. Photos may be moved about and arranged as the judges seek a consensus. First, Second and Third places will be awarded. Judges may also recommend an Honorable Mention award for any photo which they consider to be outstanding, but that did not place among the top three.

D. Judging Factors

Photo contests are more subjective than model contests. A prize winning photograph is often more a matter of art and

luck than execution of technique. Certainly, the photographer is faced with more things that are beyond his control than the model builder, at least where the prototype categories are concerned. Notwithstanding this subjectivity, there are some judging factors that are brought to bear by experienced judges.

1. IMPACT: Best explained by "I wish I'd taken that picture". Given a choice, action is preferable to static scene. In model photography, the choice of the model will contribute to the impact of the picture. Does the photograph reveal obvious, distracting modeling flaws, or has the photographer taken pains to be sure that all of the elements shown work together to produce pleasing results. When the environment is exceptional, or the viewpoint makes the ordinary extraordinary, full credit should be given for the contribution the photographer's sensitivity brought to the subject.

2. COMPOSITION: The arrangement of the forms within the photo should be pleasing to the eye. How well did the photographer use the available space within his format? Did he or she follow the guidelines taught in art and photography classes? If the rules are broken, did the result justify that decision?

3. ARTISTIC APPROACH: This subjective area is where a strongly graphic or symbolic composition may appeal to one judge and a "typical calendar shot" may appeal to another. One tends to evaluate artistic and aesthetic qualities based on one's own experience. What moves us and the degree we are impressed will change as we are exposed to more and better images. A judge should not start out looking for a special kind of artistry, to do so would be imposing personal values, sensibilities, or preconceptions without giving the entries a chance to speak for themselves.

4. LIGHTING: In photography "Light is law". It is the only thing that makes it possible to expose film. Skillfully handled, the result can be a work of art; badly handled, the result is a total failure or a snapshot at best. The photographer should be given full credit for use of multiple flashes, supplemental reflectors, or well developed room lighting, depending on the quality of the execution. The best execution of any lighting system in model photography is one that produces a realistic, natural appearance, without multiple shadows (there can only be one sun!), with accurate color, and without excessively harsh contrast and black holes devoid of details.

5. EXPOSURE: If a print appears washed out, or shadow details are obliterated, it is obvious it was improperly exposed. The judge may decide however, that an unusual exposure was skillfully handled to achieve a desired mood or dramatic effect.

6. FOCUS: Model photographers strive to maximize the appearance of sharpness throughout the photo to achieve realistic results. Generally "selective focus" is not desirable in model or prototype photos, since it produces fuzzy areas that are distracting; but there are always exceptions. The judges must determine whether or not the photographer achieved his or her goal.

7. DIFFICULTY: In prototype shots this relates to motion, lighting conditions (including weather), selection of appropriate viewpoint, inherent danger and the knowledge of special techniques and equipment. Model photography involves a different set of technical skills for close-up work while maintaining adequate depth-of-field. Lighting models adequately can be difficult and complex as well. Since a model may be photographed many times with different settings, there is little reason to see a poorly lit photo of model scenes. A prototype may be available only once.

8. SPECIAL EFFECTS: This would apply to deliberate blurring or panning to accentuate motion, long exposures at night to create light streaks, multiple exposures, shooting through fog or smoke, using filters, print toning, or any other special effects limited only by the photographer's imagination. In model photos, special effects include smoke and steam simulation, fog, harsh weather conditions and more. The final evaluation should be, as always, a response to how well the effect achieved the desired result: did it work, and is the result pleasing or evocative enough to have made the effort worthwhile.

9. TECHNIQUE: Is the color pleasing, correct or believable? Color saturation should also be evaluated. To some extent this is influenced by the quality of processing: however, whether the result is acceptable or not is a judgment for which the photographer is responsible. An unsatisfactory processing job may be redone. Black and white is more often controlled by the photographer, because more of them process their own. With digital all of this is changing. Good blacks and mid-tones, clean whites, and careful contrast control are essential to all contest-quality black and white prints.

10. FINISH: Consider the impact of the presentation of the entry. Prints should not be blemished or streaked and should be bonded correctly to the mount, with carefully measured borders. Mounts and mats should be clean and neatly cut, lie flat, and not show excess mounting tissue or adhesive around the edges. If a print is not suitable for publication reproduction, it should not be considered for an award.

E. Awards

Plaques and ribbons will be given for all First (1st) place finishers in the photo contest. Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place finishers shall receive ribbons. Honorable Mention ribbons are presented as recommended by the judges for any photo which they consider to be outstanding, but that did not

These rules will be the rules used for the Photo Contest at the next LSR Convention next June in Lubbock, Texas

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change.

LSR Convention: Lone Star Region 60th Annual Convention (2011) Lubbock, TX The Lone Star Region NMRA 60th Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn . Check the LSR website. Come all!! **PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division Garland

Monthly Meeting Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson, MMR jhoverson@tx.rr.com or the Division 3 Page on the LSR website.

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers Meeting San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meet the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777, or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers Hockley TX

Over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

Events and Shows:

November

6th – 7th Texas & Pacific Railroad Museum Annual Model Train Show and Shopping Extravaganza, Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Adults $5, 12 and Under free, Marshall Civic Center, Marshall TX.

January 2011

15th – 16th North Texas Council 2010 Dallas Area Train Show, Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Adults $7, 12 and Under Free with adult ticket, Plano Centre; Plano, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com.

Company Store Inventory as of October 15, 2010

All cars sold out.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches $5.00 each (Only LSR Life – 35 avail.)
Auto/Window Region Decal $ .50 (10 avail.)

N Scale (13 avail.) Nevadun Decals $2.00 per sheet
HO Scale (8 avail.) & N Scale (22 avail.) Daw Cha Southern Decals $3.00 per sheet

Shipping
Please add $1.00 for patches and decals

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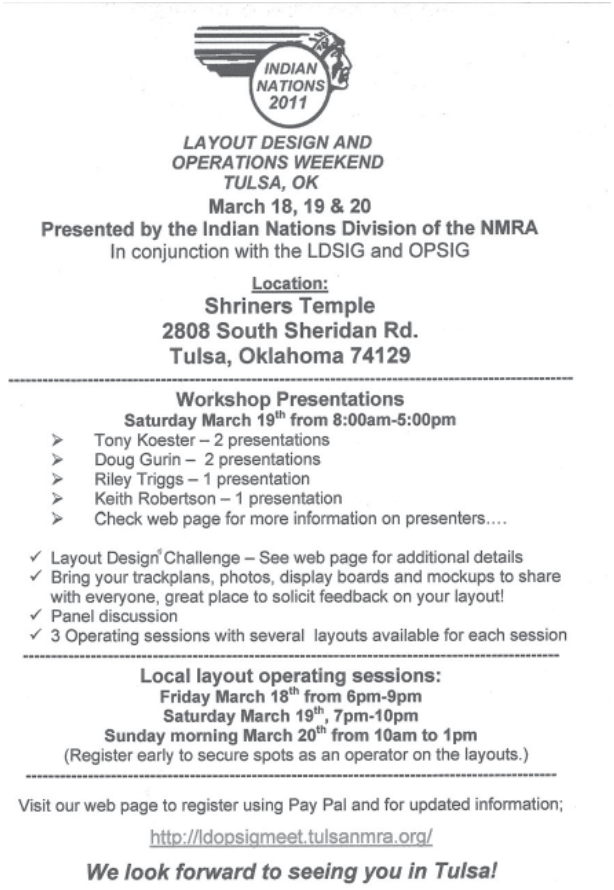

INDIAN NATIONS 2011
LAYOUT DESIGN AND OPERATIONS WEEKEND
TULSA, OK
March 18, 19 & 20
Presented by the Indian Nations Division of the NMRA
In conjunction with the LDSIG and OPSIG
Location:
Shriners Temple
2808 South Sheridan Rd.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129
Workshop Presentations
Saturday March 19th from 8:00am-5:00pm
Tony Koester – 2 presentations
Doug Gurin – 2 presentations
Riley Triggs – 1 presentation
Keith Robertson – 1 presentation
Check web page for more information on presenters....
Layout Design Challenge – See web page for additional details
Bring your trackplans, photos, display boards and mockups to share with everyone, great place to solicit feedback on your layout!
Panel discussion
3 Operating sessions with several layouts available for each session
Local layout operating sessions:
Friday March 18th from 6pm-9pm
Saturday March 19th, 7pm-10pm
Sunday morning March 20th from 10am to 1pm
(Register early to secure spots as an operator on the layouts.)
Visit our web page to register using Pay Pal and for updated information;
http://ldopsigmeet.tulsanmra.org/
We look forward to seeing you in Tulsa!

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Tom Browning

For the First Fiscal Quarter of 2010/2011

Beginning Balance 05/01/2010	
LSR Checking Account	$2,756.87
Vanguard CD Fund	$35,506.85
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention	$2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth	
$40,263.72	
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,545.87	
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89	
LSR Proceeds	
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$2.70
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$1.08
Pike Ads	$172.00
Cars	$400.00
Total Proceeds	**$575.78**
LSR Disbursements	
Marker Lamp Printing and Mailing	
$2,474.26*	
Youth Membership Program	$56.00
President's Expenses	$119.62
Contest Materials	$423.95
Historian Expenses	$9.00
Achievement Program Expenses	$13.05
Website Expense	$59.90
Total Disbursements	
$3,155.38	
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements	
-$2,579.60	
Ending Balance 07/31/2010	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$173.49
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	
$35,510.63	
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention	$2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth	**$37,684.12**
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,545.87	
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89	
Funds Held For Division 4 $4,255.60	

* Includes two issues

At the end of April 2010 the membership was 989 and at the end of September 2010 the membership was 1019. Please welcome our new members listed below:

May 2010

Stan Brein, Denton, TX – 1
Jude King, Little Elm, TX – 1
Phil King, Little Elm, TX – 1
George Sparks, Keller, TX – 1
Esmee Rills, Mataire, LA – 2
Dwight Betts, Ennis, TX – 3
Ken Bihalar, Plano, TX – 3
Patrick Burleson, Richardson, TX – 3
Johnny Callison, Mineola, TX – 3
Pabb Gonzalez, Forney, TX – 3
Donald Griffin, Rockwall, TX – 3
Greg Keny, Carrollton, TX – 3
Rhonda Lindsey, Dallas, TX – 3
Jeff Matthews, Garland, TX – 3
Mike Nimer, Plano, TX – 3
Jeremy Oglesby, Allen, TX – 3
David Pederson, Plano, TX – 3
Ava Skipworth, Dallas, TX – 3
Arnold Swaminathan, Frisco, TX – 3
Bob Tolan, Frisco, TX – 3
Jay Waters, Midlothian, TX – 3
Lisa Watson, Tyler, TX – 3
Ben White, Tyler, TX – 3
Cliff White, Tyler, TX – 3
Steve White, Tyler, TX – 3
Chip Wood, Plano, TX – 3
Marilyn Brister, San Marcos, TX – 4
Cole Adams, Lubbock, TX – 5
Rodney Apgar, Garden Ridge, TX – 6
Park Lowrance, San Antonio, TX – 6
Joseph Mainz, San Antonio, TX – 6
Robert Melton, Garrison, TX – 7
Everett Dyer, Weston Lakes, TX – 8
Robbie Price, Rosharon, TX – 8

June 2010

David Geib, Navasota, TX – 8
Leonard Myers, Houston, TX – 8
Rex Ritz, Houston, TX – 8

July 2010

Lee Bassinger, Haltom City, TX – 1
Laurel Johnson, Zachary, LA – 2
Robert Coker, Plano, TX – 3
Harriet Donsbach, San Antonio, TX – 6
Geoffrey Gill, Livingston, TX –8
William High, Beaumont, TX – 8
Leslie Jones, Houston, TX – 8
Cynthia Vandendriessche, The Woodlands, TX – 8

August 2010

Samuel Carr, Ft. Worth, TX – 1
Tom Peter, Plano, TX – 3
James Newlan, George West, TX – 6
Barry Bergschneider, Richmond, TX – 8
William Faulk, Houston, TX – 8
David Pfeffer, Richmond, TX – 8
John Seale, Houston, TX – 8

September 2010

Kevin Lambert, Ft. Worth, TX – 1
Linn Garrison, Garland, TX – 3
George Till, Canton, TX – 3
John Siebert, College Station, TX – 4
Chris Ulrich, La Grange, TX – 4
Andrew Burton, Shallowater, TX – 5
Alex Biescar, Klein, TX – 8
Gordon Biescar, Klein, TX – 8
William Gage, Richmond, TX – 8
James Homer, Katy, TX – 8
Lance Longo, Sealy, TX – 8

FROM THE PAST (Fall 1985)

By Jim Long, MMR LSR Historian

LSR President John Lowrance reports that those word processors have started a new hobby called letter writing. As if I don't have enough problems with those word processor guys out there, I had a surprise at the office last week. A task force of electricians descended on my office with conduits and other vicious looking hardware. Somewhat startled, I questioned them about the wall they were taking down. They mumbled something about "dedicated circuits" to avoid power surges. You know how it is when you know that you know but you don't know why you know it? Well I knew – I could feel it in my bones – COMPUTERS! Yes those rascals are about to install an IBM PC. I protested to my supervisor who threatened to send me to programming school somewhere – probably up north!

News from up north is that Dallas/Fort Worth have formed a "Council" to help pull the many clubs together. People complain about the politics of the NMRA, but when a task must be accomplished, someone needs to do the planning and coordination required to organize many different groups into a working unit. The LSR has enjoyed a "small town" atmosphere for some years. In most cities there was only one club with few members. There were almost no organized activities in the outlands. The single club provided the structure to organize conventions, send representatives to the Regional BOD etc. What our larger cities found that as the hobby and city grew together; limits were reached on how many people can meet at a home, or how far people would drive to attend a meeting. This was followed by fragmentation of the original club into several clubs with more specialized interests, or location. These small groups found it difficult to perform large tasks such as sponsoring a convention. The Dallas/Ft. Worth council is a move in the right direction – good luck in your efforts up there.

Word has been received that a new railroad – the Gnaw Bone & Western – is under construction in the hills and hollers (that's really hollers not hollows) of southern Indiana (well really in Pearland, Texas}. This line will connect with the M J & I railroad just east of Gnaw Bone, Indiana and the Cincinnati – St. Louis line of the B & O railroad at Loogootee, Indiana. The total length of the line will be p2 miles (actually 920 feet) when completed. Track laying is proceeding at a rapid pace in spite of the numerous cuts, fills and tunnels needed, and the mainline is expected to be open for operation by November of this year. Yards and other trackage will be added in the future as time and funds become available. All trackage visible to the railfan is hand spiked code 70 rail, and all the hidden trackage is code 100 flex track.

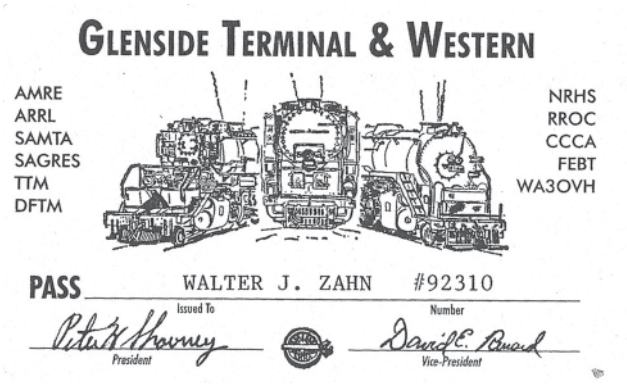
Pass Exchange

There seems to be an interest in the Lone Star Region to bring the Pass Exchange program back to life. Walter Zahn has decided to work on renewing interest in this program. If you are interested in participating please send him 2 samples of your pass and in return you will get a pass and a list of Active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes and send a pass of the quarter that will be displayed in the *Marker Lamp.*

Please help Walter get this program moving again. Send you passes to:

Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

PASS of the Quarter



Texas finally woke up!

The Glenside Terminal & Western pass submitted for exchange by Peter Shavney of San Antonio. It has all the attributes of a prototype pass, printed on good quality cardstock, rounded corners, identified as a pass and the motive power outline identifies the mode of transportation offered.

This pass is one of several received from Texas and all of them were above average and could appear in a future issue. I know there are more Lone Star Region pass owners out there and possibly they will respond to the Pass Exchange before the Winter Issue.

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

I hope you all had a great summer and are busy working on your layouts now that the weather has cooled off. As I write this, I am preparing for the Ft. Worth train show in two weeks. Of course, by the time you read this, it will be almost time for the train show in Plano. Just like years past, both of these shows are important to the division because as a member of the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs, we have a financial interest in the success of the shows. Beyond that, local train shows are an excellent opportunity to meet new modelers and share the benefits of joining the NMRA. We have a booth at both shows and last year, we had a lot of success recruiting new LSR members at the Plano show. You can get the latest information about the Ft. Worth and Plano train shows at http://facebook.com/dfwtrainshows.

The Cowcatcher Division is also responsible for presenting four clinics at the Plano show. This is a great time to teach a skill to the public and meet some new friends in the process. If you have a clinic in your back pocket and would like to help out the division in Plano, please contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com. This is an excellent time to work through new material to present at the 2011 LSR convention in Lubbock.

We had a very successful meeting at the Texas Western clubhouse in October. Mike Jobe made the trip from Greenville to share some of his knowledge of craftsman structures with the group. Mike Corely won the popular vote contest for his completed coal dock kit, which was conveniently placed on the Texas Western layout. Unfortunately, only a few people signed up for the operating session, so it was canceled.

In September, several Division 1 members made the trip to Rocky Op in Colorado and the Great Basin Getaway in Utah to op 'till we dropped. We managed to squeeze in over 45 hours of operating in 8 days and spend a day and a half railroading the Colorado Front Range and the Moffat Line including the Big 10 Loops and the east portal of the Moffat Tunnel.

In November, 19 local layout owners and clubs will host 61 operators from Houston and Tulsa as well as many other parts of Texas and Louisiana for the 2010 DFW Interchange operating weekend. The Dallas/Ft.Worth area takes its turn hosting this event once every three years. If you'd like to participate in the next DFW Interchange, send me a note, and I'll add you to my list.

It is time to start thinking about next year's youth scholarship. The recipient will receive a 1-year membership to the NMRA, including a subscription to the NMRA magazine. If you have a child or grandchild that is interested in model railroading, please forward me his or her name as a nomination. Perhaps there is a young person in your club that you would like to nominate.

The next division meeting will be 10AM Saturday, January 15th, 2011 in room 1 of the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area Administration Building at 3400 Bryant-Irvin Blvd., Ft. Worth, TX 76019. If you have any questions, contact me by email at chris@theatkinsfamily.com or call me at 214-222-1285. You can also find out more by checking out the Division 1 website at http://cowcatcherdivision.com.

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider

Just a touch of Fall is in the air with a hint of what is to come. This has been a tough quarter with a lot happening family-wise. The following will explain why this article is a bit on the short side. Cancer paid me a visit early in this quarter and believe me, all else went to the sidelines. I'm happy to say that the decisions made were the best ones and currently the problem is at bay. Long time friend past- president Jim Packer, not to be outdone, fell out of his tree breaking his hip and four ribs. Good luck during the healing process, Jim. Nuff said.

Had the opportunity to spend some time at Cass, West Virginia. What a wonderful place to visit. A bit sparse to live in but the scenery is awesome and the locomotives were absolutely fantastic. Whether you are interested in narrow gauge or not, seeing a Shay, Heisler, or Climax in motion is an experience you will not soon forget. Climbing up an 8-1/2 % grade is just not what you expect a locomotive to do and they do it with ease. Maybe you narrow gaugers' are on the right track.

The September issue of the Piney Woods Journal had a very nice article featuring the MidSouth Model Railroad Club and its founder Jack Green. Good pictures and a nice write-up. The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders will present an Open House, October 23, 2010 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. They will have all layouts running and the Live Steamers will all be fired up and running. Live steam is really interesting as they operate exactly as the prototypes do. Come pass a good time and remember, "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – "Let the good times roll!"

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR

Hi everyone, hope you had a great summer and are making plans for all those winter time modeling projects.

The Trinity River Division has been busy as usual with our monthly meetings at the Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin Street, downtown Garland where we meet on the third Saturday of every month at 10:15. Speaking of our meetings, I send out reminders with the upcoming agenda a week or two

prior to the meeting via email. **If you are not getting this email notification I don't have your current email address.** Please send your information to me at jhoverson@tx.rr.com so I can include you and you can join us for all the fun!

Here's what we've been up to since the last report.

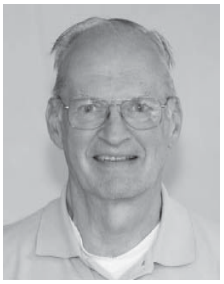
July & August – We started on another achievement, structures, by doing a hands-on kitbashing project. This was a lot of fun and the guys made some great models for their layouts! After we completed the models the guys took them home, mounted them on a base and applied some scenery. We then held a "most popular" contest and here is the winning model done by Austin Jones (you remember Austin, he was Division 3's youth member from last year).

September – Our own Mike Jobe showed us how to take an ordinary shiny plastic automobile and with a little "Rust-n-Dust", powdered chalks, and some Dull Coat and turn it into a gem of a rust bucket!

October – We did another of our "mini-tours" of local layouts. This time we had 6 great layouts in HO & S scales. What a great time.

As you can see Trinity River Division is doing lots of activities and in the coming months we plan on continuing doing even more. So if you're in Trinity River Division or any other division and just want to join in, we're looking at an exciting year coming up with lots and lots of fun railroad things to do.

Take care all and get working on your latest project but most of all get involved with the division and have some railroading FUN!



Cen-Tex Division 4

by Jack Merkel

The NMRA/LSR was represented at the Centra Mod train show in Temple in September. We had a table with a poster describing the benefits of NMRA membership, six model railroad photos on the poster, some NMRA and Marker Lamp magazines and Caprock Express flyers. We talked to lots of people and hopefully laid the seed for some future members and some attendees at the Caprock Express convention in Lubbock in 2011. We also will be at the Austin Jamboree in October.

The San Antonio folks had a N-Scale T-trak modular layout at the Temple show. These modules are 8" x 12" and are set up on table tops. The modules are much easier to transport and set up than the usual N-trak modules. There were several modules at this show with good detail. You can find more information at a website: t-trak.org.

I noticed in recent NMRA magazine issues, that **Fred Holland** and **Steve Blackson** , Division 4 members, earned a couple of AP certificates each. In due course, hopefully we will have some more MMR's in Division 4 to join **Chuck Lind** and **Carl Lester**. We have the opportunity to double the number of MMR's in Division 4!

November is National Model Railroad Month. I always have an open house for my neighbors in conjunction with the Austin Jamboree layout tour. You never know where you might find another future model railroader — or future NMRA/LSR member!

We normally spend about a month in Seattle in the summer. This year I made my usual rail fanning trips to the Seattle car float, Balmer yard, and Tacoma Docks. The Seattle car float runs weekly from Seattle to Alaska and carries 48 cars. The loading track crosses a city street, so you can get a close up look at the operation. BNSF's Balmer yard and Tacoma Docks also both have easy close up access.

I should note that Thomas the Tank Engine visited Division 4 (Burnet) early October along with Sir Toppan Hatt. Several thousand people came out to visit and ride the train. Many future model railroaders were there including some of my grandchildren.

Until next time, may you have a clear signal ahead.

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

Plans are going well for next years LSR Convention in Lubbock. For all the details please read my article found in this issue of the *Marker Lamp*. See you in June.

Division 6

by Tom Crosthwait

We are looking forward to the 2nd Annual Fall Train Show presented by the New Braunfels Historic Railroad & Modelers Society. The show will be held at the New Braunfels Civic Center on Saturday, November 13 (10am – 5pm) and Sunday,

November 14 (10am – 4pm). The Civic Center is located at 375 S. Castell Avenue in New Braunfels. It will be worth the time to visit the event as well as dig around in the history of the IGN, Katy and MP that kept the folks busy for many years in that city.

SANTRAK is settling into their new home on Austin Highway. The San Antonio N-Track club has moved into the previous space occupied by Hobby Town in northeast San Antonio. This will be a welcomed move for visitors as well as their members. Their large space is air conditioned, well lighted and very conducive to year-round modeling and running trains.

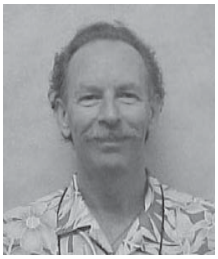
AMRE is taking a deep breath after their 22nd annual train show. The Live Oak Convention Center was once again alive with operating model railroads, vendors and visitors. This group of modelers works each week end to show off their railroad to the visitors to the Texas Transportation Museum.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association currently has several crews working on various scenery projects. The operations committee hosts operating session 3 times each month and looks for any excuse to operate more often. Clinics are given after each of the general meetings that are held on the second Friday of each month.

SAMRA's modular SIG is located in Wonderland of the Americas and invites folks to stop by on the weekends for a visit.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association will be hosting their 35th Annual Jamboree on January 29 and 30, 2011 at the Live Oak Convention Center located at 8101 Pat Booker Road. The reports from the jamboree chairman indicate lots of vendor tables and operating displays.

Thirty-one San Antonio railroad fans and modelers boarded Amtrak to travel to the train show in Temple, Texas on September 18. This is becoming an annual event for friends in the San Antonio area. I believe that this is the second year in a row that a large group has gathered to ride the rails northward.



Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Greetings from North Louisiana. I hope everyone had a good summer, stayed out of the heat and did some modeling.

Local news, the ArkLaTex Modular Club had a very successful National Train Show in Milwaukee. I urge everyone that if you get the chance, it really is fun attending one. We got to meet the various Manufactures/Builders and all those magazine folks-oh, the folks at Carsten Publishing are not mad at us (LSR) for their founder's untimely death. I was a bit hesitant in visiting with them-if you know what I mean! Overall it was a wonderful experience, and yes I would do it again! The local folks up there were complaining about the HEAT—88 degrees—till we told them what it was back home! We also just returned from the LMRA annual show, as usual Bob, Cecil and crew did their great job, their attendance was up despite the nice weather, the Vendors all were happy-they sold a few things, the smell of popcorn lingered in the air, and I saw a great number of LSR friends! We had a great time.

The KCS' Holiday Express is progressing nicely, we are adding a few things-a mobile garden style layout, in the snow no less-among other things. This will be the TENTH year of this wonderful enterprise, and it just keeps getting better! OK, you D/FW folks will be visited on Thursday December 2nd, at the Wylie Texas yards on Oak Street-4pm till ?. They Never set an end time; it's when the LAST child gets to see Santa. So come on out and visit, you might see a few Elves you know-Jim N. I know will be there, unfortunately, I shall not, business, I will be boarding shortly after that visit. Ok you Texarkana troops will also get a visit this year, Wednesday December 8th, at the KCS Yards, 1000 West Seventh Street. Come on by and say hello, I'll be the elf in red. Of course there may be a few more elves in red, but just ask for me.

That is all I have now, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and do some playing with trains.!!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

Well the weather outside is getting cooler and things in the Division are moving forward. Membership this year has stayed about the same as last year, around 260 to 270 member in 26 counties along the gulf coast. By the time you read this in *Marker Lamp* the Big Texas Train Show will be over with. At the show the Division was able to sign up 15 new members for the Division and the LSR/NMRA. I would like to said THANK YOU for becoming a member of the NMRA, and welcome the following new members, William Schulz, Nancy Schulz, Keland A. Carlson, Robert J. Sanhaas, Jay Cooper, Klint Bush, Lydia Moon, Mike Cartusciello, James Bohot, Robert A. Mellichamp, Giff Babcock, Rick Labs, Dennis Sherman, Ande Courtin, Jeanine Fisher, and Jon Ruehle. This would not have been possible if it was not for the volunteers who help at the show, they are Leslie Bodak, Steve Bakrkley, Tracy Mitchell, Mike Bodalk, Jim Lemmond, Dave Shafer. and the LSR Membership committee Mike Jobe, who came down from Dallas to help the Division at this show. These new members, volunteers, NMRA and LSR members are what moves us forward each year. If we do not promote the NMRA at local events like this the hobby will slowly fade away. So I, Ray Byer challenge all members who read this to get one person to join the NMRA and to show that person the joys of being a member. And remember to help a younger person in the hobby; they are the future of the NMRA and the hobby.

P.S. Ask Mike Jobe why you should always bring a coat hanger to a train show.

Pike Ads

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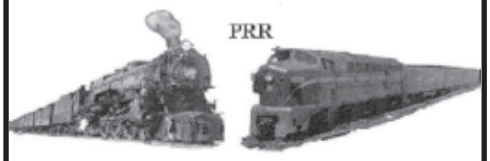
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